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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulla Eid Salman **Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 30th to 33rd, 39th, 42nd and 43rd meetings, from 3 to 5 and from 11 to 13 November 2003. At its 30th to 33rd meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/58/SR.30-33, 39, 42 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2003;[1]

(b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2002;[2]

(c) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[3]

[1] A/58/3 (Parts I and II); for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).
[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/58/12/Add.1).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/58/281);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/58/299);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/58/353);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on strengthening the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out its mandate (A/58/410);

(h) Letter dated 3 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2003 (A/58/415-S/2003/952).

4. At the 30th meeting, on 3 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.30).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the High Commissioner, in which the representatives of Pakistan, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Sudan and Yemen took part (see A/C.3/58/SR.30).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, as well as Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Norway, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa"(A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1). Subsequently, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution I).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Chile and Greece (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

10. At the 48th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Canada made a statement with regard to the draft resolution (see A/C.3/58/SR.48).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.38

11. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, the Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, the Sudan, Turkey, Yemen and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors" (A/C.3/58/L.38).

12. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Sudan orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "malaria, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and tuberculosis," were replaced by the words "human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, malaria and tuberculosis";

(b) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "*Reaffirming*" was replaced by the word "*Recalling*";

(c) In operative paragraph 7, the words ",international human rights law and international refugee law" were inserted after the words "international humanitarian law";

(d) In operative paragraph 9, the word "among" was inserted after the words "*Acknowledges* that education is".

13. Also at the 42nd meeting, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

14. At the 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the sponsors, further orally revised operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "to respect international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law" with the words "to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law", and replacing the words "Geneva Convention" with "Geneva Conventions".

15. Burkina Faso, Burundi, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal and Somalia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as further orally revised.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Switzerland (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

18. Also at the 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.38, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.39

19. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/58/L.39). Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, El Salvador, Estonia, the Gambia, Grenada, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mauritania, Nauru, Samoa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.39 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.40

22. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf also of Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/58/L.40). Subsequently, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.40 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution IV).

25. The representative of Egypt made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.41

26. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate" (A/C.3/58/L.41). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iceland, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

27. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark made a statement of clarification with regard to the draft resolution (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

29. Also at its 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.41, as corrected, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.43

30. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States" (A/C.3/58/L.43). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Niger, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

31. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

32. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.43 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution VI).

33. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

34. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/183 of 18 December 2002,

Recalling also the provisions of its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recalling further the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Recalling the Khartoum Declaration[3] and the Recommendations on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[4] adopted by the Organization of African Unity[5] at the ministerial meeting held at Khartoum on 13 and 14 December 1998,

Welcoming decision EC/CL/Dec.27 (III) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its third ordinary session, held at Maputo from 4 to 8 July 2003,

Welcoming also decision AHG/Dec.165 (XXXVII) on the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held at Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001,[6]

Recalling its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and affirming that international support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[7] is essential, notably as it relates to refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[8] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[9] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] A/54/682, annex I.
[4] Ibid., annex II.
[5] On 8 July 2002, the Organization of African Unity ceased to exist and, in its place, the African Union came into force on 9 July 2002.
[6] See A/56/457, annex I.
[7] A/57/304, annex.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[9] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

Recognizing that the fundamental principles and rights embodied in those conventions have provided a resilient protection regime within which millions of refugees have been able to find safety from armed conflicts and persecution,

Welcoming in that regard the Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, held at Geneva on 12 and 13 December 2001,[10] as an expression of their collective commitment to full and effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol,

Recalling the Comprehensive Implementation Plan adopted by the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts convened by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969, and noting its endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session, held at Lomé from 6 to 8 July 2000,[11]

Commending the convening of the first African Union Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa, which was held at Kigali on 8 May 2003, and recalling the attention paid to issues relevant to refugees and displaced persons in the Declaration[12] and Plan of Action adopted by the Conference,

Recognizing the contributions made by African States to the development of regional standards for the protection of refugees and returnees, and noting with appreciation that countries of asylum are hosting refugees in a humanitarian spirit and in a spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood,

Recognizing also the need for States to address resolutely the root causes of forced displacement and to create conditions that facilitate durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, and stressing in that regard the need for States to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent to forestall large refugee flows,

Convinced of the need to strengthen the capacity of States to provide assistance to and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons and of the need for the international community, within the context of burden-sharing, to increase its material, financial and technical assistance to the countries affected by refugees, returnees and displaced persons, to simultaneously address the inadequacies of existing assistance arrangements and to support initiatives in this regard,

Acknowledging with appreciation that some assistance is already rendered by the international community to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and host countries in Africa,

Noting the "Convention Plus" initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime through the development of comprehensive approaches to

[10] HCR/MMSP/2001/10, annex I.

[11] See A/55/286, annex I, decision CM/Dec.531 (LXXII), para. 8.

[12] See MIN/CONF/HRA/Decl.1 (I).

resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions,

Deeply concerned about the continuing critical humanitarian situation in African countries, in particular in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa, aggravated, among other things, by persistent natural disasters, including drought, floods and desertification, which can precipitate the displacement of people,

Noting with great concern that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious,

Stressing that the provision of relief and assistance to African refugees by the international community should be on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis,

Considering that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict and bear the brunt of atrocities and other consequences of conflict,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[13] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[14]

2. *Notes with concern* that the deteriorating socio-economic situation, compounded by political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters, has led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa, and remains particularly concerned about the impact of large-scale refugee populations on the security, socio-economic situation and environment of countries of asylum;

3. *Encourages* African States to ensure the full implementation of and follow-up to the Comprehensive Implementation Plan adopted by the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts convened by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969;[1]

4. *Calls upon* States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and the spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since assuming office in January 2001, and commends the Office of the High Commissioner for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Reaffirms* that international protection and the search for durable solutions for refugees and, as appropriate, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, which were examined, inter alia, in the Global

[13] A/58/353.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).

Consultations process and are reflected in the Agenda for Protection,[15] are at the core of the mandate of the Office;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its linkages with the other parts of the United Nations system in order to enhance refugee protection and to identify and implement durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern to the Office, and appreciates the efforts of the Office to strengthen partnerships with operational and implementing partners;

8. *Takes note* of the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees as an expression of their collective commitment to full and effective implementation of the Convention[8] and the Protocol;[9]

9. *Reaffirms* that the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remain the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa, encourages African States that have not yet done so to accede to those instruments, and calls upon States parties to the Conventions to reaffirm their commitment to their ideals and to respect and observe their provisions;

10. *Notes* the need for States to address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa, and calls upon African States, the international community and relevant United Nations organizations to take concrete action to meet the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons for protection and assistance and to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight;

11. *Also notes* the link, inter alia, between human rights violations, poverty, natural disasters and environmental degradation and population displacement, and calls for redoubled and concerted efforts by States, in collaboration with the African Union, to promote and protect human rights for all and to address those problems;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 26 May 2003;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing mediation and conflict resolution efforts carried out by African States, the African Union and subregional organizations, as well as the establishment of regional mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, and urges all relevant parties to address the humanitarian consequences of conflicts;

14. *Expresses its appreciation and strong support* for those African Governments and local populations that, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions and overstretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers

[15] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.

of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

15. *Welcomes* the decision of African heads of State and Government to address the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa within the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[7]

16. *Expresses its concern* about instances in which the fundamental principles of asylum are jeopardized by unlawful expulsion or refoulement or by threats to the life, physical security, integrity, dignity and well-being of refugees;

17. *Reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character;

18. *Deplores* the deaths, injuries and other forms of violence sustained by staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure their safety and security, calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes, and calls upon organizations and aid workers to abide by the national laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate;

19. *Condemns* any exploitation of refugees, especially their sexual abuse and exploitation, calls for those responsible for such deplorable acts to be brought to justice, welcomes in this regard the conclusion on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-fourth session,[16] and notes with deep concern that inadequate protection and/or inappropriate assistance, particularly concerning the quantity and quality of food and other material assistance, increases the vulnerability of refugees and asylum-seekers to sexual abuse and exploitation;

20. *Welcomes* the decision by the Office of the High Commissioner to put into place a code of conduct for humanitarian personnel aimed at preventing the exploitation of refugees, especially in the area of sexual exploitation;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;

22. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of

[16] Ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/58/12/Add.1), chap. III.E.

relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

23. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

24. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner with the cooperation and collaboration of countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, and welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the 4Rs approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees, and notes with appreciation that some African countries have offered resettlement places for refugees;

26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

27. *Welcomes* the programmes carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner with host Governments, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the international community to address the environmental and socio-economic impact of refugee populations;

28. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

29. *Expresses its concern* about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review, in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing needs of refugees;

30. *Notes* the conclusion adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-fourth session on the importance of early and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to enable the quantification and

assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

31. *Emphasizes* the need for the Office of the High Commissioner to collate statistics, on a regular basis, on the number of refugees living outside refugee camps in certain African countries with a view to evaluating and addressing the needs of those refugees;

32. *Urges* the international community, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

33. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children and displaced persons, including those with special protection needs;

34. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly refugees are fully respected and addressed through appropriate programme activities;

35. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[17] and urges the international community, led by relevant United Nations organizations, to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating the plight of internally displaced persons;

36. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004.

[17] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Draft resolution II
Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994, 50/150 of 21 December 1995, 51/73 of 12 December 1996, 52/105 of 12 December 1997, 53/122 of 9 December 1998, 54/145 of 17 December 1999 and 56/136 of 19 December 2001,

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and the most at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault, abuse and vulnerability to infectious disease, such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, malaria and tuberculosis, and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Bearing in mind that the most important steps in working with unaccompanied minors are rapid identification, immediate registration and documentation and tracing of family,

Recalling the outcome document entitled "A world fit for children", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session on 10 May 2002,[1]

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied minors, and welcoming their efforts in reunifying families of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to reunite refugees with their families,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further enhanced efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [2] and the 1951 Convention[3] and 1967 Protocol thereto[4] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continuing plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

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[1] Resolution S-27/2, annex.
[2] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/58/299.

3. *Stresses* the importance of providing adequate resources for programmes of identification, registration, documentation and tracing of unaccompanied minors and their reunification with their families;

4. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate into its programmes policies that aim at preventing the separation of refugee families, conscious of the importance of family unity;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, as well as other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

6. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, as well as other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate with the needs of unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

7. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[6] and related instruments, and to respect the provisions of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child,[2] which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

8. *Condemns* all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

9. *Acknowledges* that education is among the most effective initial means of ensuring protection for unaccompanied minors, especially girls, by shielding them from exploitative activities such as child labour, military recruitment or sexual exploitation and abuse,

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund, other United Nations organizations and other international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in the areas of relief, education, recreational activities, health and psychological rehabilitation;

11. *Encourages* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in his efforts to raise awareness worldwide and mobilize official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including refugee minors;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution and to give special attention in his report to the girl-child refugee.

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[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

Draft resolution III
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-fourth session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underscoring its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-fourth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the conclusions adopted on international protection,[3] on the return of persons found not to be in need of international protection,[4] on protection safeguards in interception measures,[5] and on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation,[6] which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection[7] resulting from the Global Consultations on International Protection, and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[8] and its 1967 Protocol[9] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, and recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-five States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/53/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III.B.
[4] Ibid., chap. III.C.
[5] Ibid., chap. III.D.
[6] Ibid., chap. III.E.
[7] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[9] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

4. *Notes* that fifty-four States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[10] and that twenty-six States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[11] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of stateless persons;

5. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

6. *Emphasizes* that international protection is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and which includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

7. *Welcomes* the High Commissioner's "Convention Plus" initiative,[12] and encourages the High Commissioner and those States that have offered to facilitate Convention Plus agreements to strengthen the international protection regime through the development of comprehensive approaches to resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions;

8. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and other displaced persons and in finding durable solutions to their situations, and welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

9. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of, and reducing the heavy burden borne by, countries that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

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[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

[11] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12), para. 24.

10. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that these solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

11. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[13] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions concerning refugees and other persons of concern, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

[13] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution IV
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decisions 2003/285 and 2003/286 of 24 July 2003 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations[1] and the note verbale dated 25 April 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations Office at Geneva,[2] both addressed to the Secretary-General,

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from sixty-four to sixty-six States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2004.

[1] E/2003/3.
[2] E/2003/77.

Draft resolution V
Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, the annex to which contains the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and its resolution 57/186 of 18 December 2002, on the continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Appreciating the concerted efforts of the High Commissioner in undertaking consultations with the Secretary-General, the members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and observers of its Standing Committee, through the process known as "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2004", on how the Office of the High Commissioner could be better equipped to carry out its mandate in the changing context of the global situation, and noting that this is in support and in the context of the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on strengthening the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out its mandate,[2] as called for in resolution 57/186;

2. *Reaffirms* that international protection and the search for durable solutions for refugees and, as applicable, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, which were examined, inter alia, in the Global Consultations on International Protection process and are reflected in the Agenda for Protection,[3] are the core of the mandate of the Office;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its linkages with the other parts of the United Nations system in order to enhance refugee protection and to identify and implement durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern to the Office, and appreciates its efforts to strengthen partnerships with operational and implementing partners;

4. *Welcomes* the admission of the Office to the United Nations Development Group, and invites the Development Group to include, through the resident coordinator system and in full consultation with the Government concerned, consideration of the needs of refugees and, as applicable, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in the common country assessment process and the subsequent formulation and implementation of their development programmes;

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/58/410.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1, annex IV).

5. *Notes* the importance of the support of the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate, to the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to promote predictable and timely United Nations strategies that, inter alia, integrate durable solutions for refugees with those for internally displaced persons;

6. *Highlights* the importance of joint efforts of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, together with those of the Office of the High Commissioner, which contribute to durable solutions for refugees in conflict and post-conflict situations, encourages the Office to play a more active role, including through sharing information with relevant United Nations forums, and stresses that all of these activities should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the mandate of the Office;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and calls for its application;

8. *Reaffirms* the continued voluntary nature of the funding of the Office of the High Commissioner in accordance with its statute, while recognizing the importance of contributions made by countries hosting refugees, especially developing countries, notes the need for more equitable international responsibility and burden-sharing and expresses concern over the recurring shortfall in the funding of the Office, requests that States, within their capacities, contribute to the full funding of the budget level approved by the Executive Committee, and encourages the Office to continue its efforts to expand its donor base and to diversify funding sources, including through the private sector;

9. *Decides* to remove the temporal limitation on the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner contained in its resolution 57/186 and to continue the Office of the High Commissioner until the refugee problem is solved;

10. *Decides also* that the High Commissioner shall make an annual oral report to the Economic and Social Council to keep it informed of the coordination aspects of the work of the Office and shall continue the existing practice, as established in paragraph 11 of its statute, of presenting an annual written report to the General Assembly, on the understanding that every ten years, beginning at the sixty-eighth session, the report will include a strategic review of the global situation of refugees and the role of the Office, prepared in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Executive Committee.

Draft resolution VI
Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995, 51/70 of 12 December 1996, 52/102 of 12 December 1997, 53/123 of 9 December 1998 and, in particular, 54/144 of 17 December 1999 and 56/134 of 19 December 2001,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2]

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Programme of Action, adopted in 1996 by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States,[3] as a basic guiding tool for future activities,

Recognizing the ongoing acuteness of the migration and displacement problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the necessity to follow up the Conference,

Recalling the decision of the Steering Group of the Conference at its fifth meeting to continue activities in the process entitled "Follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues" for a period of five years,

Recalling also the Work Plan for the Thematic Issues, prepared jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Steering Group at its fifth meeting,

Welcoming the convening, in Moscow from 20 to 23 November 2001, of the second meeting of experts within the framework of the Work Plan for the Thematic Issues, on the topic of asylum system development and treatment of asylum-seekers, as well as international efforts aimed at improving migration regulation and border management, with due regard for refugee protection matters, and encouraging all lead agencies to continue to implement the Work Plan,

Welcoming also the subregional initiatives within the framework of transboundary cooperation and the convening, in Kolmården, Sweden, in September 2002, of the senior-level review meeting,

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[1] A/58/281.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).

[3] A/51/341 and Corr.1, appendix.

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support for the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aimed at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-building in countries of origin and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Taking note of the positive results emanating from the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Convinced of the necessity of further strengthening practical measures and of continuing to maintain the regional approach for the achievement of effective implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with concern the decision to postpone the high-level review meeting concerning the implementation of the decisions of the Conference,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that adherence to the principles and the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and that they can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

2. *Calls upon* the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to strengthen their efforts and mutual cooperation relating to the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, and welcomes the positive results achieved by them in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference;[3]

3. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention[4] and the 1967 Protocol[5] relating to the Status of Refugees;

4. *Calls upon* States and interested international organizations, in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

5. *Invites* international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of such follow-up activities;

6. *Invites* the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in such activities;

7. *Calls upon* the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular principles of human rights and refugee protection, and to lend high-level political support to ensure the implementation of activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to enhance their mutual relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and human rights, development and financial institutions, in order better to address the wide-ranging and complex issues in activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in building civil society, in particular through the development of the non-governmental sector and the development of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Governments of a number of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and notes in this regard the relationship between adherence to the principles of the Programme of Action and success in promoting civil society, especially in the field of human rights;

10. *Encourages* the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Conference, and invites them to demonstrate stronger support for the process of multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned;

11. *Emphasizes* the necessity of undertaking follow-up activities to the Programme of Action in relation to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of taking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law, including humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, to prevent situations that lead to new flows of refugees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement;

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

14. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixtieth session.